

APR 23 1961

NASHVILLE (Tenn.)  
TENNESSEANCirc.: m 119,848  
S 201,996Front Page  
Edit Page  
Other Page

Date: APR 23 1961

# Lessons of Cuban Reversal Are Harsh, But Profitable

**D**EFEAT, as President Kennedy said of the abortive move against the Castro regime, is an orphan. And there seems to be no dearth of those who want to place the infant of blame on the White House doorstep.

Cuban rebels' resentment is mounting. Some friendly nations have chided us. Post-mortems are plentiful. As might have been expected, no matter to what minor or major extent this nation was involved, it was a case of being a sheep or a lamb in the propaganda hanging places.

President Kennedy has not tried to shift any blame for failure of the clandestine project to help Cubans overthrow an iron-fisted dictatorship. This project took shape under a previous administration. The invaders were ready, restive and under pressure by a host base to move out.

It thus became the President's responsibility to sanction or discourage the invasion in the face of intelligence warnings that time was on the side of Castro's Communist-armed troops, and the confidence of Cubans in exile that the hour was ripe for victory.

Our own intelligence system appears to have miscalculated. But so did the Cubans in exile calculate wrong, and to a greater extent. It seems odd indeed their channels of information and their coordination with the underground was not more productive—at least of information about the strength of Castro forces and the probabilities against mass uprising.

Quite plainly the counter-revolutionaries underestimated the remaining popularity of Mr. Castro, and the efficiency of his neighbor-to-neighbor spy system. It is also plain they attempted to oversell the invasion in terms of size and potential for success.

All the facts of the foul-up simply aren't known. It has cost this country in world and hemisphere opinion. Yet, out of this nettle, failure, we may pluck favorable fruit.

Mr. Kennedy has emphasized it is a lesson from which the nation intends to profit. He has spoken of re-examination and reorientation of our forces of all kinds—along with our tactics. And he has pledged intensification of efforts in the war against communism.

The weak results of former policy have been weighed and found wanting. Henceforth this nation will engage the insidious methods of Red aggression on a scale to match it.

One of the re-examinations surely will be of our Central Intelligence Agency which should be strengthened and expanded.

Evidently, there will be other re-appraisals of, as Mr. Kennedy said, forces and tactics. Fire will be fought with fire, wherever the cause of freedom is endangered.

On the issue of freedom, the President has warned, there can be no middle ground. And he has made plain the doctrine of non-intervention shall not merely serve as concealment of a lack, or excuse for a policy of non-action.

To those in Cuba who now are seeing the Red-run Castro regime discard any remaining pretext of being anything but a police state in which tyranny and terror rule the day, Mr. Kennedy has made the promise: Cuba will not be abandoned.

The people of the United States need not feel there is cause to sink into hopeless gloom. In the fight against tyranny, a skirmish has been lost. But the nation is regirding for a new and more intense struggle under new ground rules.